

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany REPORT  
TOPIC Motor-Vehicle Columns in the Zella-Mehlis AreaEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                      25X1DATE OF CONTENT                      25X1DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 11 August 1955REFERENCES                      25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

25X1

1. The following columns passed through Zella-Mehlis en route from the direction of Meiningen toward Ohrdruf on 17 and 19 July 1955: 25X1  
17 July. Approximately 7 x 37-mm AA guns, approximately 3 x 120-mm mortars, approximately 4 x 82-mm mortars on trucks, 7 to 8 x 57-mm and 7 to 8 x 85-mm AT guns, 4 to 5 field kitchens, and some 50 trucks occupied by a total of about 450 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, and including some carrying billeting equipment.  
19 July. Some 6 x 37-mm AA guns, and 25 to 30 trucks.<sup>1</sup>  
On 23 July, the following columns passed through Benshausen en route from the direction of Zella-Mehlis toward Meiningen: 25X1  
0830. Three tank trucks, and 8 trucks towing field kitchens.  
1830. Nine 122-mm field howitzers, 8 x 85-mm AT guns, some 25 trucks occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 2 to 3 field kitchens, and 2 tank trucks. It is possible that additional columns passed through Zella-Mehlis and Benshausen on the days mentioned.<sup>2</sup>
2. On 18 July, 8 mortars of approximately 100 to 120-mm, 6 AT guns of approximately 85-mm, 6 x 57-mm AT guns, and 30 trucks were unloaded at the Oberer Bahnhof in Plauen. The column left toward Hindenburg Kaserne (8482), and Koenig-Georg Kaserne (8443). Each truck was occupied by approximately 18 soldiers who wore red epaulets.<sup>3</sup>
3. At about 1800 on 21 July, a column of 8 T-34/85 tanks, 3 SU-100 guns, 1 salvage tank, 1 radio truck, and 1 repair-shop truck left the Pionier Kaserne (8522) in Weissenfels, and was entrained at the freight station for an undetermined destination. At 1130 on 24 July, the column returned to the installation. The vehicles were heavily soiled. 25X1
- 42 At about 1500 on 18 July, a column of approximately 20 trucks, and 5 ambulances passed through the Naumburg post. The column came from the direction of Halle and proceeded toward Bad Koesen. The trucks carried a large number of women and some undetermined devices. The vehicles presumably belonged to a motorized medical unit. During the night of 18/19 July, a major exercise, which involved some 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets, was held near Bad Koesen. A major number of tanks and, possibly, 4 SU-76 guns were seen there.<sup>5</sup>

25X1

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

**SECRET**

25X1

2

25X1

1. Comment. The columns presumably were composed of various units of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, and returned to the Ohrdruf post from joint exercises. According to weapons observed, it appears improbable that the columns belonged to the 177th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt from Meiningen.

25X1

2. Comment. According to weapons observed, the column also involved elements of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div from Ohrdruf.

25X1

3. Comment. These were probably elements of the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, which returned to their post from exercises. The departure of these troops from the post had not been observed.

25X1

4. Comment. The loading involved tank firing details of the 17th Gds Tank SP Regt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, which returned to their post.

25X1

5. Comment. The movements of the columns and the night exercise may have been connected with the assumed command-post exercise of the Eighth Gds Army.

25X1

25X1

25X1

**SECRET**

25X1